

Minutes of meeting between ACAC (Arlington Commission on Arts & Culture) and members of A-TED (Arlington Tourism and Economic Development) regarding possibility of Cultural District designation process for Arlington

October 9, 2014. 7:30 pm  
26 Woodland Street, Arlington (home of Barbara Costa)

Attending:

ACAC: Adria Arch, Barbara Costa, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, and Amy Mongeau (Arts & Culture Liaison for ACAC)

A-TED: Joe Curro, Tom Davison, Sharon Shaloo

Discussion of Cultural District designation possibilities

- Investigate how other Towns with Cultural District designations have handled management issues/organizational structure. (Would want to hire someone to oversee.) Also research what in each town made them a compelling Cultural District, and ask re lessons learned.
- Important for Town to participate by partially funding the effort. Noted that town of Medfield gave matching funds. Other resources? Natick hired a consultant for \$4500, paid by regional tourism entity. Discussion of whether to start with an Adams Grant or with a Cultural Designation application; general preference in this meeting for the latter but not unanimous and still open to discussion.

Note: The town of Medfield the town has now matched the grant that MCC allocates to its LCC so that grant funds are increased.

- Discussion of location for a Cultural District for Arlington, which must be walkable from one end to the other. If Arlington Center is considered as a district, it would extend from Jason Street to Franklin Street. Find presence for Arlington Center for the Arts in a storefront in the Center? New Parking District in the Center may be a source of revenue by end of 2015/early 2016. Capitol Square businesses should be part of the discussion.

- Discussion of existing districts
  - Literary Cultural District of Boston, founding partners each contributed to the effort. They first obtained \$20K Adams Grant with which they hired a PT person; some Adams Grants can be for planning purposes. Natick received \$10K.
- Other related items:
  - There is a Local Cultural Council ListServe
  - In past someone had suggested an 'AIR' (Arts-Industry-Revolution) district in Arlington to include Schwamb Mill, Jason Russell House, Dallin Museum

- There could be a thematic walking tour to include various locations outside of the Cultural District (e.g., Old Schwamb Mill). Think about thematic tours from the Center.

Plan to meet again in early December.